velopment have been sanctioned durng the financial year 1993-94 to 1998-99 (upto 30.11.98) and the position of disbursement of loan to each factory is at Annexure.

[*See Appendix* 185, *Annexure No.* 56]

(c) The factorywise outstanding SDF dues (as on 30.6.98) is given at Annexure.

[*See Appendix* 185, *Annexure No.* 57]

(d) No such case has come to the notice of the Government.

**Effect of Pest-Infected Australian Wheat on Other Agricultural Crops**

2208. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minsiter of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pest-infected imported Australian wheat stocks are posing a hazard to other agricultural crops like cashewnut etc. in Karnataka, as reported in Hindustan Times of 12th October, 1998;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so that domestic agricultural crops do not suffer any hazard; and

(c) who is responsible for this state of affairs and what action is proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) No Sir. Imported Australian wheat stocks have been received at various Indian Ports in pest-free condition. A complaint received from Karnataka about cross-infestation of cashewnut stored in the Karnataka State Warehousing Corproaiton Godowns at Mangalore was investigated by FCI and it was found that there was not threat of insect infestation. As a measure of precaution the authoritics of FCI and State Warehousing Corporaiton have been advised to keep the imported wheat stock free from infestation by regular prophylactic and curative treatment and to issue the stock on priority.

**Meeting of Chief Secretaries on Price Rise**

2209. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Secretary took a meeting of all the State Chief Secretaries on the question of price rise of essential commodities:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether is a fact that the Cabinet Secretary had stated that it was due to a section of hoarders and because of lack of proper coordination between different Minsitries and agencies of the Government of India, as reported in a section of the press; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Cabinet secretary had convened a meeting of Chief Secretaries of all States/Union Territories on 7.11.98 to discuss issues relating to price rise. Summary of the conclusion arrived in the meeting is given in Statement. (*See* below)

(c) The statement attributed to the Cabinet Secretary in not true.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*Meeting of Chief Secretaries of States/UTs taken by the cabinet Secretary on 7.11.98 at New Delhi.*

In pursuance of a decision taken recently by the Prime Minister in a meeting with the Group of Ministers, the Cabinet Secretary today held a meeting with the Chief Secretaries of State Governments and Union Territories to reivew the situation arising out of the recent increase in the prices of some essential commodities. The meeting took not of the abnormal increase in the prices